

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

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IN RE AUTOMOTIVE PARTS	:	Master File No. 2:12-md-02311
ANTITRUST LITIGATION	:	Judge Marianne O. Battani
_____	:	
	:	
IN RE: VALVE TIMING CONTROL	:	13-cv-02502-MOB-MKM
DEVICES	:	
_____	:	
	:	
THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:	:	
	:	
DEALERSHIP ACTIONS	:	
_____	:	

**ORDER GRANTING DEALERSHIP PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY
APPROVAL OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT WITH
DEFENDANT AISIN SEIKI VALVE TIMING CONTROL DEVICES
PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATION OF SETTLEMENT CLASS**

Upon consideration of Automobile Dealer Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Approval of Proposed Settlement with Defendants Aisin Seiki Co., Ltd. and Aisin Automotive Casting, LLC (collectively, "AISIN SEIKI") and Provisional Certification of Settlement Class ("Motion"), it is hereby **ORDERED** as follows:

1. The Motion is hereby **GRANTED**.

Unless otherwise set forth herein, defined terms in this Order shall have the same meaning ascribed to them in the Settlement Agreement.

Preliminary Approval of Settlement Agreement

2. The terms of the Settlement Agreement are hereby preliminarily approved, including the release contained therein, as being fair, reasonable, and adequate to the Settlement Class, subject to a Fairness Hearing. The Court finds that the Settlement Agreement was entered into at arm's

length by experienced counsel and is sufficiently within the range of reasonableness that notice of the Settlement Agreement should be given, pursuant to a plan to be submitted by Settlement Class Counsel and approved by the Court at a later date as provided in this Order.

Class Certification

3. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure (“Rule”) 23, and in light of the proposed settlement, the Court hereby finds that the prerequisites for a class action have been met and provisionally certifies the following class for settlement purposes (“Settlement Class”):

“Valve Timing Control Devices Settlement Class” is defined as:

All Automobile Dealerships that, during the period from and including January 1, 2000 through the Execution Date, indirectly (a) purchased Valve Timing Control Devices manufactured by the Defendants or any current or former subsidiary or affiliate thereof or any co-conspirator, or (b) purchased new vehicles containing Valve Timing Control Devices manufactured by the Defendants or any current or former subsidiary, affiliate thereof or co-conspirator.

Excluded from the Class are Defendants, their parent companies, subsidiaries and affiliates, and co-conspirators, federal governmental entities and instrumentalities of the federal government, states and their subdivisions, agencies and instrumentalities, and persons who purchased Valve Timing Control Devices directly or for resale.

4. The Court finds that provisional certification of the Settlement Class is warranted in light of the Settlement Agreement because: (a) the Settlement Class is so numerous that joinder is impracticable; (b) Dealership Plaintiffs’ claims present common issues and are typical of the Settlement Class; (c) Dealership Plaintiffs and Settlement Class Counsel (defined below) will fairly and adequately represent the Settlement Class; and (d) common issues predominate over any individual issues affecting the members of the Settlement Class. The Court further finds that Dealership Plaintiffs’ interests are aligned with the interests of all other members of the Settlement Class. The Court also finds settlement of this action on a class basis superior to other means of resolving the matter.

Appointment of Settlement Class Counsel

5. The Court hereby appoints Barrett Law Group, P.A., Cuneo Gilbert & LaDuca, LLP, and Larson King LLP as Settlement Class Counsel, having determined that the requirements of Rule 23(g) are fully satisfied by this appointment.

6. Each Dealership Plaintiff class representative named in the most current Complaint in this matter will serve as Dealership Plaintiff class representative on behalf of the Settlement Class.

Notice to Potential Class Members

7. Prior to the Fairness Hearing, Settlement Class Counsel shall provide notice of the Settlement Agreement and the Fairness Hearing to all entities affected by and/or entitled to participate in the settlement in compliance with the notice requirements of Rule 23 and due process of law. Such means of providing notice will be addressed in a subsequent Order following submission by Dealership Plaintiffs at a later date of a proposal for notice to the Settlement Class and related forms for notice, claims and distribution (“Notice Motion”).

8. The Notice Motion shall include a proposed form of, method for, and date of dissemination of notice and the date on which the notice is mailed shall be the “Notice Date.”

Other Provisions

9. In the event that the Settlement Agreement is terminated in accordance with its provisions, the Settlement Agreement and all proceedings had in connection therewith shall be null and void, except insofar as expressly provided to the contrary in the Settlement Agreement, and without prejudice to the status quo and rights of Dealership Plaintiffs, AISIN SEIKI Defendants, and the members of the Settlement Class.

10. The Court’s provisional certification of the Settlement Class as provided herein is without prejudice to, or waiver of, the rights of any Defendants, including AISIN SEIKI

Defendants, to contest certification of any other class proposed in these coordinated actions. The Court's findings in this Order shall have no effect on the Court's ruling on any motion to certify any class in this action or on the Court's ruling(s) concerning any Defendant's motion; and no party may cite or refer to the Court's approval of the Settlement Class as persuasive or binding authority with respect to any motion to certify any such class or any Defendant's motion.

11. The Court approves the establishment of the Settlement Fund under the Settlement Agreement as a qualified settlement fund ("QSF") pursuant to Internal Revenue Code Section 468B and the Treasury Regulations promulgated thereunder, and retains continuing jurisdiction as to any issue that may arise in connection with the formation and/or administration of the QSF. Settlement Class Counsel are, in accordance with the Settlement Agreement, authorized to expend funds from the QSF for the payment of the costs of notice, payment of taxes, and settlement administration costs.

12. The litigation against Releasees (as defined in the Settlement Agreement with AISIN SEIKI Defendants), in particular Aisin Seiki Co., Ltd. and Aisin Automotive Casting, LLC, is stayed except to the extent necessary to effectuate the Settlement Agreement.

SO ORDERED.

Date: June 20, 2017

s/Marianne O. Battani
MARIANNE O. BATTANI
United States District Judge